

LOFTUS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



NORTH RIDING (GUISBOROUGH)
COMBINED DISTRICTS.

. REPORT .
for the Year 1945
of the Medical Officer of Health,
C. R. GIBSON, M.A., M.B., CH.B.
D.P.H.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1945, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 28/46.

The population of the Urban District at the middle of 1945, according to the Registrar-General's estimate, was 6,694—an increase of 92 from the previous year, but a decrease of nearly 1000 from the population at the last census in 1931. As a natural increase, an excess of the births over the deaths, has subsisted every year with two exceptions (1936 and 1940) one is bound to conclude that there has been a steady emigration out of the District.

The number of births during 1945 was 137, compared with 156 in 1944, and an average of 121 in the five years 1939 to 1943. The birth-rate per thousand of the population is 20·5, which may be compared with an average of 19·0 over the Combined Districts and of 16·1 over England and Wales.

The deaths of residents during 1945 numbered 80, corresponding to a death-rate of 11·9. The death-rate over the five years 1939—43 was 13·0, and 12·2 in the five pre-war years 1934—38. The death-rate in England and Wales in 1945 was 11·4, but direct comparisons cannot be made owing to local differences in the proportions of the population at various ages.

Five children died under the age of one year, corresponding to an infant mortality rate of 36½ infant deaths per thousand births. The average rate for England and Wales in the year was 46, and for the Combined Districts 50½. The infant mortality rate in this district has been consistently low in the last twenty-five years.

The deaths among young children, aged from one to four years, are similarly low. Two occurred at these ages in 1945, one in 1944, 10 in the five years 1939—43, 13 in 1934—38 and 18 in 1929—33. This reflects a satisfactory standard of parental care.

All these vital statistics, and the figures for earlier periods for comparison, are given in Table I of the Appendix to this Report. The figures for notifiable diseases are given in Table II and most of them mark an increase over the number of notifications received in 1944. Comparison with the Combined Districts as a whole and with England and Wales may be made from the following table :—

Notified Cases per thousand (Civilian) population 1945

	Lofius U.D.	N.R. Combined Districts	England and Wales
Scarlet Fever	3.88	2.55	1.89
Diphtheria	2.99	1.12	0.46
Enteric Fever	0.00	0.00	0.02
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.00	0.03	0.05
Measles	12.70	16.60	11.67
Whooping Cough	1.79	1.59	1.64
Puerperal Pyrexia	7.19	4.49	9.93
<i>(per thousand total births)</i>			

Of the 26 cases of scarlet fever, five occurred in the month of August, three in September, and four in October, while there were no cases in January or February. The cases also were drawn from all over the area so that at no time was the district much affected.

Cases of diphtheria were notified in every month of the year but April and November. Four of the 20 cases occurred in January, and four in February. There were three deaths in these months, in non-immunised children. Later in the year the diphtheria was of a much milder type.

In Circulars No. 193/45 and 194/45 issued by the Minister of Health on the 14th November, 1945, the Minister intimated his decision that as from 1st January, 1946 the responsibility for immunising children under five years of age should be placed upon Welfare Authorities, instead of, as previously, on Borough or District Councils. The Minister further intimated that, where a Borough or District Council which is not itself the Welfare Authority at present provides facilities for immunisation of children under school age, these arrangements need not be disturbed, and in Circular 8/46 of the 18th January, 1946, he suggested that in such cases the expenditure should now be borne by the County Council as Welfare Authority. In Circular 193/45 the Minister asked that all Medical Officers of Health should keep individual case records of children who receive immunisation in their area and it was suggested that the responsibility for printing record cards and ensuring that a supply is available when required at every centre of whatever kind where immunisation is carried out, should rest on the Welfare Authority. Owing, doubtless, to shortage of cards and slowness of execution of orders a supply of record cards was not received until the end of May, 1946. The Minister also asks for half-yearly and yearly returns summarising the immunisations in each District.

In the middle of 1945 the Council authorised a publicity campaign in favour of diphtheria immunisation, by press advertising (with the Ministry's assistance), by posters displayed on hoardings, and by distribution of leaflets through the schools with the co-operation of the Education Committee and the Head Teachers. This was duly carried out. Local medical practitioners also have been very helpful in pressing home the value of the protection given by immunisation, so that the position as regards immunisation is

much more favourable in the district at the end of 1945 than it was at the beginning. The estimate, however, of 95% of the children aged 5—14 years protected by immunisation that is given in the following table is certainly an over-estimate : it is obtained by adding up the number of children born in the years 1931 to 1940 concerning whom certificates of immunisation had been received since the commencement of immunisation up to and including 1945, and relating this number to the estimated total of children aged 5—14 years in the present population. I have no information as to the number of children who have left the district with their parents and can therefore make no allowance for these.

Diphtheria Immunisation : N.R. Combined Districts

	Guisborough U.D.	Loftus U.D.	Redcar Borough	Saltburn & Marske U.D.	Skelton & Brotton U.D.
No. of children immunised					
during 1944	134	114	437	111	58
during 1945	256	152	529	137	212
Estimated number of children under 5 years of age	640	616	2050	550	1072
Estimated percentage of these immunised at end of 1945	58	38	47	62	35
Estimated number of children aged 5—14 years	1185	1019	3780	877	1912
Estimated percentage of these immunised at end of 1945	72	95	64	70	50
Cases of diphtheria in 1945 in children under 15 years	13	13	12	3	3
Number of these known to have been previously immunised	9	7	7	2	1
Deaths from diphtheria in 1945 in children under 15 years. (all in non- immunised)	—	3	1	—	—

A measles epidemic was at its height in January and February and continued at a diminishing rate for a few months. There were no deaths ascribed to measles but one child died from whooping cough.

Only two new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, the fewest number in any year, back as far as my records go, 1919. Five deaths, however, were due to this disease, a number which shows no diminution since 1940. The experience of the Combined Districts as a whole is that during the war, or at least in the years 1942—1944, the number of cases of tuberculosis notified increased sharply and equalled the numbers that obtained ten or more years earlier, but that in 1945 the number of new cases diminished again ; that the deaths from this disease, particularly from the disease in the lungs, increased, starting in 1941, and still remain increased.

Venereal Disease. The Minister of Health's Circular 42/45 dealt with propaganda against venereal disease, and suggested that Local District and Borough Councils should co-operate with the County Council for this purpose. In this area the County

Council supplied posters and the District Council undertook their display on hoardings and such like.

Verminous Infestation. One case of scabies in a school child was reported by a head teacher during the year. Of eight returning evacuees who were inspected for cleanliness and freedom from infection, two boys, from one billet, were found to have some nits in their hair, and marks of fleabites on their bodies. The remainder were very satisfactory.

Water Supply of the Area. The water supply of the district generally has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

The supply at the village of Sealing and at farms in that vicinity is from small springs, inadequate for the needs of the farms and liable to contamination. A meeting of representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the North Riding War Agricultural Executive Committee, the Whitby Rural District Council and of this Council was held and requested the Cleveland Water Company, as the statutory undertakers, to provide a supply for that part of the area. The Company has prepared a scheme for a new reservoir to deal with this, which has, I understand, been submitted for the Ministry's approval.

No water in the district is known to have a solvent action on lead, and no action was required in respect of contamination.

The proportion of population and of dwellinghouses supplied from public water mains direct to the houses is estimated at 86% and by standpipes 11%.

Post-War Housing. Tenders were invited for eight permanent houses on sites at Coronation Road and Whitby Road, Loftus, which are available for development immediately.

Negotiations are still proceeding for the acquisition of building sites at Liverton Mines for approximately 200 houses and lay-out plans are being prepared.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Guisborough,

C. R. GIBSON,

August 8th, 1946.

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres) : 10,595.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1945 : 6,694.

Number of inhabited houses (1945) according to Rate-books : 2,079.

Rateable value : £25,853.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £100 6 6.

The main industries are iron and steel works, ironstone mining and agriculture.

APPENDIX.

1. SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Period.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths at Ages		Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis.	Yearly Birth-rate.	Yearly Death-rate.	Infant Mortality Rate (Infant deaths per thousand births).
				Under 1 year	1—4 years.				
1884—1888	6,453	1172	505	161	62	—	36.4	15.7	137
1889—1893	6,208	1018	465	126	59	—	32.8	15.0	124
1894—1898	6,200	989	440	135	60	—	32.1	14.2	136
1899—1903	6,508	1150	496	159	53	—	35.4	15.2	138
1904—1908	7,600	1310	547	161	60	45	34.5	14.4	123
1909—1913	8,872	1465	600	172	72	45	33.0	13.5	117
1914—1918	8,700	1175	576	141	—	46	27.0	13.3	120
1919—1923	9,120	1148	481	93	47	39	25.2	10.6	81
1924—1928	8,342	872	458	43	17	28	18.8	11.0	55
1929—1933	7,997	648	461	38	18	19	16.4	11.7	59
1934—1938	7,744	539	473	40	13	16	13.9	12.2	74½
1939—1943	7,025	605	458	32	10	18	17.2	13.0	53
1944	6,602	156	82	7	1	4	23.6	12.4	45
1945	6,694	137	80	5	2	5	20.5	11.9	36½

2. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1945

(other than Tuberculosis).

	All Ages	Under 1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Cases Admit'd Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	26	1	—	3	2	13	3	2	—	1	1	—	21	—
Diphtheria	20	—	1	3	—	3	5	5	1	1	—	—	17	3
Pneumonia	8	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	3	—	8
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	85	1	8	17	9	32	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	12	1	2	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

**3. PATIENTS ADMITTED TO GUISBOROUGH & DISTRICT
JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL
(from North Riding Combined Districts).**

	1/4/33 to 31/3/34	34/35	35/36	36/37	37/38	38/39	39/40	40/41	41/42	42/43	43/44	44/45
Scarlet Fever	149	290	148	220	227	128	26	48	27	32	110	85
Diphtheria	54	132	23	30	32	73	32	56	73	36	22	92
Enteric Fever	2	3	—	44	4	1	2	1	2	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Puerperal Fever	3	3	4	5	3	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	2	1	—	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	18	5	6	4	3
Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	29	30	36	40	56
TOTAL	210	429	177	301	266	210	85	154	139	114	179	236
Service and outside patients (included)	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	25	24	29	32	52